

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION**

**EUGENE SCALIA**, Secretary of Labor,  
United States Department of Labor,

Plaintiff,

V.

**SUNSTAR AKRON, INC.,  
dba MOTEL 6**

and

**PUNARVASU S. PATEL, Individually,**

Defendants.

[illegible]

## COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Eugene Scalia, Secretary of Labor, United States Department of Labor (“Plaintiff”), brings this action to enjoin Defendants Sunstar Akron, Inc., doing business as Motel 6, and Punarvasu S. Patel, individually (“Defendants”) from violating the provisions of Sections 6, 7, 11 and 15 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) (“the Act”) pursuant to Section 17 of the Act, and to recover unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation owing to Defendants’ employees, together with an equal amount as liquidated damages, pursuant to Section 16(c) of the Act.

## I.

Jurisdiction of this action is conferred upon the court by Section 16(c) and 17 of the Act and 28 U.S.C. § 1345.

## **II.**

(a) Defendant, Sunstar Akron, Inc., (“Sunstar”) is, and at all times hereinafter mentioned was, an Ohio corporation doing business as Motel 6, having its main office and place of business at 99 Rothrock Road in Akron, Ohio, within the jurisdiction of this court, and is, and at all times hereinafter mentioned was, engaged in the operation of a motel open to the general public and in the performance of related types of activities.

(b) Defendant, Punarvasu S. Patel (“Patel”) is the sole owner of Defendant Sunstar and at all times hereinafter mentioned, actively supervised the day-to-day operations and management of Sunstar in relation to its employees, including, but not limited to, hiring employees, firing employees and setting pay rates of employees. At all times hereinafter mentioned, Defendant Patel was engaged in business within Summit County at Akron, within the jurisdiction of this court. Defendant Patel acted directly or indirectly in the interest of Sunstar in relation to its employees and is an employer within the meaning of Section 3(d) of the Act.

## **III.**

Defendants are and, at all times hereinafter mentioned were, engaged in related activities performed through unified operation or common control for a common business purpose and are, at all times hereinafter mentioned were, an enterprise within the meaning of Section 3(r) of the Act.

## **IV.**

Defendants at all times hereinafter mentioned were an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of

Section 3(s)(1)(A) of the Act, in that said enterprise at all times hereinafter mentioned had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, or employees handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods or materials that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person and in that said enterprise has and had an annual gross volume of sales made or business done of not less than \$500,000.

**V.**

(a) Defendants repeatedly and willfully violated the provisions of Sections 6 and 15(a)(2) of the Act by paying many of their employees wages at rates less than \$7.25 per hour in workweeks when said employees were engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce or were employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning of the Act, as aforesaid. Specifically, since January 4, 2017, Defendants paid salaried, non-exempt employees weekly salaries that were too low to compensate for hours worked at rates of \$7.25 per hour.

(b) In addition to the violations set forth in sub-part (a) above, Defendants have continued to violate the provisions of Sections 6 and 15(a)(2) of the Act by continuing to employ employees in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of the Act, as aforesaid, for wages at rates less than \$7.25 per hour for time worked beginning on January 4, 2017.

**VI.**

(a) Defendants repeatedly and willfully violated the provisions of Sections 7 and 15(a)(2) of the Act by employing many of their employees who in

workweeks were engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, or who were employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, within the meaning of the Act, as aforesaid, for workweeks longer than forty hours without compensating said employees for their employment in excess of forty hours per week during such workweeks at rates not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which they were employed. Specifically, Defendants did not pay premium wages to salaried, non-exempt employees who worked in excess of forty hours in a week. Defendants also did not pay premium wages to hourly employees who worked in excess of forty hours in a week.

(b) In addition to the violations set forth in sub-part (a) above, Defendants have continued to violate the provisions of Sections 7 and 15(a)(2) of the Act by continuing to employ employees in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of the Act, as aforesaid, for workweeks longer than forty hours without compensating these employees for their employment in excess of forty hours, at rates not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which they were employed.

## **VII.**

Defendants, employers subject to the provisions of the Act, repeatedly and willfully violated the provisions of Sections 11(c) and 15(a)(5) of the Act in that they failed to make, keep, and preserve adequate and accurate records of their employees and the wages, hours, and other conditions and practices of employment maintained by them as prescribed by regulations duly issued pursuant to authority granted in the Act and found in 29 C.F.R. § 516, in that

records fail to adequately and accurately show, among other things, the hours worked by all employees.

During the period since January 4, 2017, Defendants repeatedly and willfully have violated the aforesaid provisions of the Act. A judgment which enjoins and restrains such violations and includes the restraint of any withholding of payment of unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation found by the court to be due to present and former employees under the Act is expressly authorized by Section 17 of the Act.

WHEREFORE, cause having been shown, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

A. For an Order pursuant to Section 17 of the Act, permanently enjoining and restraining Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, and those persons in active concert or participation with them from prospectively violating the provisions of Section 15 of the Act; and

B. For an Order:

1. pursuant to Section 16(c) of the Act, finding Defendants liable for unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation due Defendants' employees and for liquidated damages equal in amount to the unpaid compensation found due their employees listed in the attached Exhibit A (additional back wages and liquidated damages may be owed to certain employees presently unknown to Plaintiff for the period covered by this complaint); or, in the event liquidated damages are not awarded,

2. pursuant to Section 17, enjoining and restraining Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, and those persons in active concert or

participation with them, from withholding payment of unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation found to be due Defendants' employees and pre-judgment interest computed at the underpayment rate established by the Secretary of Treasury, pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 6621;

C. For an Order awarding Plaintiff the costs of this action; and

D. For an Order granting such other and further relief as may be necessary and appropriate.

/s/ Elizabeth R. Ashley

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